

the American people on a desolate island that lacks freedom and lacks prosperity in the years ahead because we have given away our authority and given away our constitutional protections to multinational organizations, whether it is the World Trade Organization, the World Environmental Organization, the United Nations, or the continued squandering of our defense dollars in order to defend Europe or Africa or other places.

The fact is, European security is not worth the tens of billions of dollars we spend by stationing troops there. Let them defend themselves. We should be a strong military power, but we should make the decisions ourselves. We should not be submitting our troops to the United Nations. We should not be submitting our economic decisions to global organizations who are run by unelected officials, who someday will make decisions detrimental to our people, and we will have no recourse through the ballot box to change those decisions. We will find ourselves vulnerable because we have given authority to foreigners who are not elected to make the fundamental decisions for our country or for the security of our troops.

This change in the patent law, trying to harmonize us with another country like Japan, which will prove, I believe, to be catastrophic, is just one of many moves to create a global marketplace, a global economy.

I believe in free trade, but that is free trade between free individuals. That is not a world-regulated trading system with an unelected bureaucracy making decisions for us.

Our multinational corporations seem to want to invest in dictatorships so they can make a 15-percent profit off slave labor, rather than a 5-percent profit over here using free Americans who are proud and have rights protected by the Constitution. No, they would rather go overseas and invest in Communist China.

These things are elite. America's political and economic elite seem to have lost faith with the fundamental vision our Founding Fathers had of a country of free and prosperous people where even the common man had opportunities and guaranteed rights that were undreamed of in the whole history of mankind. If we lose that vision, we will lose our freedom and our children will not live decent lives, and this bothers me. This patent fight is only one indication of that attitude.

Let us fight this battle together. Let us pick up the torch that Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin talked about.

Mr. Speaker, as I yield back the balance of my time, I submit for the RECORD the letter I referred to earlier in my remarks.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE U.S. SENATE:

We urge the Senate to oppose the passage of the pending U.S. Senate Bill S. 507. We hold that Congress, before embarking on a revision of our time tested patent system,

should hold extensive hearings on whether there are serious flaws in the present system that need to be addressed and if so, how best to deal with them. This is especially important considering that a delicate structure such as the patent system, with all its ramifications, should not be subject to frequent modifications. We believe that S. 507 could result in lasting harm to the United States and the world.

First, it will prove very damaging to American small inventors and thereby discourage the flow of new inventions that have contributed so much to America's superior performance in the advancement of Science and technology. It will do so by curtailing the protection they obtain through patents relative to the large multi-national corporations.

Second, the principle of prior user rights saps the very spirit of that wonderful institution that is represented by the American patent system established in the Constitution in 1787, which is based on the principle that the inventor is given complete protection but for a limited length of time, after which the patent, fully disclosed in the application and published at the time of issue, becomes in the public domain, and can be used by anyone, under competitive conditions for the benefit of all final users. It will do so by giving further protection to trade secrets which can be kept secret forever, while reducing the incentive to rely on limited life patents.

Nobel Laureates in support of the letter to congress, re: Senate Bill 507

Franco Modigliani, (1985, Economics) MIT.
Robert Solow, (1987, Economics) MIT.
Mario Molina, (1995, Chemistry) MIT.
Ronald Hoffman, (1981, Chemistry) Cornell.
Milton Friedman, (1976, Economics) University of Chicago.
Richard Smalley, (1996, Chemistry) Rice.
Clifford Shull, (1994, Physics) MIT.
Herbert A. Simon, (1978, Economics) Carnegie-Mellon.
Douglass North, (1993, Economics) Washington University.
Dudley Herschbach, (1986, Chemistry) Harvard.
Herbert C. Brown, (1979, Chemistry) Purdue.
David M. Lee, (1996, Physics) Cornell.
Daniel Nathans, (1978, Medicine) Johns Hopkins.
Doug Osheroff, (1996, Physics) Stanford.
Har Gobind Khorana, (1968, Medicine) MIT.
Herbert Hauptman, (1985, Chemistry) Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute.
John C. Harsanyi, (1994, Economics) UC Berkeley.
Paul Berg, (1980, Chemistry) Stanford.
Henry Kendall, (1990, Physics) MIT.
Paul Samuelson, (1970, Economics) MIT.
James Tobin, (1981, Economics) Yale.
Jerome Friedman, (1990, Physics) MIT.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BONILLA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of family illness.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) after 3 p.m. today, on account of attending the funeral of Mother Teresa.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. MENENDEZ) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. HILL) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HILL for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. MENENDEZ) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. NEAL.
Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
Mrs. TAUSCHER.
Mr. PALLONE.
Mr. FILNER.
Mr. UNDERWOOD.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE.
Mr. KUCINICH.
Mr. REYES.
Mr. ROEMER.
Mr. LANTOS.
Mr. STARK.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. HILL) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. GALLEGLY.
Mrs. MORELLA.
Mr. TAUZIN.
Mr. EVERETT.
Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, in two instances.
Mr. JOHNSON of Texas.
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
Mrs. ROUKEMA.
Mr. SOLOMON.
Mrs. NORTHUP.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. ROHRBACHER) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. ETHERIDGE.
Mr. LAZIO of New York.
Mr. KILDEE.
Mr. FARR of California.
Ms. PELOSI.
Mr. ORTIZ.
Mr. MENENDEZ.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following titles was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1161. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize appropriations for refugee and entrant assistance for fiscal years 1998 and 1999; to the Committee of the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1866. An act to continue favorable treatment for need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.